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position of Dalgety, capital of the Australian Commonwealth ; the travels of McMillan and Liddell in the basin of the White Nile ; French explorations in the Sahara ; and the new boundary between Brazil and British Guiana.

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### BOOK NOTICES.

**The Andrew J. Stone Explorations in Arctic and Sub-Arctic America.** 38 pp., 52 half-tone Illustrations and 3 black-and-white Maps in Text. 4to. Edition limited to 100 numbered copies, all of which have been distributed. The American Museum of Natural History, New York, 1905.

This handsome brochure commemorates the very valuable results of the collecting and exploratory expeditions of Mr. Stone in the Arctic regions of North America between 1897 and 1904. The generosity of a few persons made it possible for Mr. Stone to attack the zoological problems of northern Alaska and the Canadian northwest, and the outcome should encourage such donations for scientific purposes. His expeditions were rich in contributions to our knowledge of the distribution of the game animals of the high north, and in the correction of the maps of the Arctic coast between the mouth of the Mackenzie and Cape Lyon. Some charted lakes and rivers were found to have no existence, and others that had been overlooked were charted and named by Mr. Stone. He also took many photographs and anthropometric measurements of Indian and Eskimo tribes. Somewhat extended descriptions of his work are given in the *Bulletin* of the Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. 13, pp. 31-62, and Vol. 14, pp. 53-68. The brochure contains many beautiful pictures of big game animals collected by Mr. Stone and now mounted at the Museum. His collections during three seasons, 1901-1903, numbered 2,325 mammals and 617 birds, besides many nests and eggs.

**Le Mexique au Début du XXe Siècle.** Par le Prince Roland Bonaparte, Léon Bourgeois, Jules Claretie, d'Estournelles de Constant, A. de Foville, Hippolyte Gomot, O. Gréard, Albin Haller, Camille Krantz, Michel Lagrave, Louis de Launay, P. Leroy-Beaulieu, E. Levasseur, le Général Niox, Alfred Picard, Elisée Reclus. 2 vols., 394 and 374 pp., many black-and-white maps in the text and 4 coloured maps. Librairie Ch. Delagrave, Paris, 1904. (Price, fr. 30.)

At the close of the Paris Exposition in 1900, M. de Mier, the Mexican Minister to France, conceived the idea of enlisting the collaboration of eminent specialists to write a description of Mexico in her various aspects. He placed before them all the best sources of information, and in less than five years his idea was realized in these two sumptuous volumes. Sixteen men, widely known in their special fields of study, are the authors, and the whole work has been under the editorial supervision of E. Levasseur, who has recently been chosen President of the Collège de France.

It is a beautiful and costly work, superior in mechanical execution and in maps, and each of its seventeen long sections bears the stamp of expert preparation. Some risk, however, is involved in this method of producing a book, and these volumes have not wholly escaped. Some of the topics overlap, and there are several instances of inconsistency in the facts given by different authors. Some statements, also, are likely to be disputed ; and, in fact, two or three not very vital remarks by Prince Roland Bonaparte, relating to the Indian population, have already been called in

question. The few typographical blunders are, of course, very conspicuous in pages so handsomely printed; and the general atmosphere of the work is, perhaps, a trifle too optimistic, though even a sober-minded German savant could scarcely escape a little enthusiasm over the wonderful progress of Mexico in the past quarter of a century. The lack of an index, as in so many French books, is regrettable.

Among the sections of special interest to the geographer are E. Reclus's description of the physical geography (45 pp.); Prince R. Bonaparte's section on the population and colonization of the country, including the emigration movements that led thousands of Mexicans far afield to the Philippines, Florida, Cuba, and California (69 pp.); Gomot on Agriculture (67 pp.); de Launay on the metals and the mining industry (61 pp.); Picard on industry, trade, and navigation (71 pp.); Krantz on railroads and public works (58 pp.); and Lagrave on the post and telegraph services (25 pp.). The political institutions, public finances, monetary and banking systems, education, position of Mexico in science, art, and literature, the army and navy and exterior relations are treated by equally authoritative writers.

There are numerous excellent small maps of the ports, and the larger coloured maps illustrate the distribution of agricultural products and minerals, the physical and political features, and the railroad system. The especially interesting railroad now rebuilt across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is shown on a sufficiently large scale. Prof. Levasseur, the editor, acutely and eloquently sums up the whole work (45 pp.), and also contributes a short historical review of the country.

**Diccionario Sipibo. Castellano-Deutsch-Sipibo. Apuntes de Gramática. Sipibo-Castellano. Abdruck der Handschrift eines Franciskaners mit Beiträgen zur Kenntniss der Pano-Stämme am Ucayali herausgegeben von Karl von den Steinen.** Berlin, 1904. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen).

The well-known ethnologist Professor Dr. Karl von den Steinen, one of the directors of the Royal Museum of Ethnology in Berlin, has published under the above title a MS. ascribed to an unknown Franciscan monk, giving a vocabulary of Spanish and Sipibo (Pano), probably, according to the editor, of about the year 1877; another vocabulary, Sipibo and Spanish, from 1810 to 1812; and, lastly, an addition to the second. The former also contains, at the end, a number of grammatical notes. The learned editor introduces these publications (of hitherto as good as unknown manuscript) by a bibliography, and a short discussion of pictographs on cotton-cloth, reported (from hearsay) to have been met with among the Panos in the second half of the eighteenth century. Thereupon follows an historical sketch of the Panos from the seventeenth century on, a list of the Pano tribes in Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil, and notes on the vocabularies. The part relative to supposed picture-writings of the Panos (about which Humboldt wrote in very cautious terms) may be dismissed with the remark that, since they were on pieces of cotton-cloth tied with agave fibre, it is not impossible they may have belonged to the class already made by Indians in the latter half of the sixteenth century, and still used by them to-day in Bolivia—for memorizing parts of the catechism, for instance. That the pieces of cloth contained human and animal figures, together with "isolated characters, that were taken for hieroglyphics," at Lima, and painted "in lines with wonderful order and symmetry," also recalls (the "wonderful" part excepted) these Indian substitutes for writing. There are, in the Beni region to-day, aged Indians who remember Latin prayers taught their forefathers in the now long-abandoned missions.

For Dr. von den Steinen, the history of the Panos begins in the middle of the